

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 10, Number 10

January-February, 1955

Pueblo People

Navaho
Weaver

Last winter we had the fun of writing up some Mexican finds, from the fascinating old towns and Capitol City where they'd been located. We had hoped to locate some rare, one of a kind things to offer in this story from Arizona and New Mexico, but when a trader did have some old fetish piece or such, "No, that was given to me and isn't for sale"—or else the prices were just plain too high.

But we did strike one lode where the nuggets were a cache of sixteen beaded Zuni girls carrying water. I had found only one in visiting a number of shops; wholesale traders simply laughed at the idea of supplying any stock on these all-over beaded figures, so tricky and time consuming to make. Indian workers are temperamental and also few would have the artistic ability to make such a doll. They're really quite exquisite, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch, solid, standing maidens with olis balanced on their proudly erect heads. In addition to being a complete mosaic of small, compactly placed

beads, each wears either an apron or a stole that's plum extra. I guess their maker wanted to demonstrate yet another craft in beading—like cloth as well as surface covering. Multi-colored, most ingeniously contrived, we think the Zuni maiden is most distinctive and an opportunity buy. No. 719A, \$9.95.

Bonnetted Zuni chieftains on pony back are of the same type; workmanship not quite so fine, but maybe it's more difficult to bead encase a quadraped than a person! These are about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, sturdy little pintos for a horse collector or fast ridin' braves for your doll collection. No. 719, \$9.95.

Our visit to Gallup was soon after the annual festival and we saw the group of winning Kachina dolls, blue ribbon and all. This year, a pair of brilliant hued Eagle Dancers, backed by seven Mud-Head Kachinas was the winning piece. The action and workmanship were splendid. Other Kachinas by the same artist were—and

are—available. We have the source, but did not afford such an investment as one of these groups would cost.

The Kachina we did buy for you is neither Hopi nor Zuni as have been all the ones offered by Kimport for years—it is the Navajo Ye-Be-Sha. Yes, the Navajos feature masked dancers at certain ceremonies; these dignified, stolid appearing Indians deck participants in the festive dance in strange attire with feathers, fur, silver and turquoise fluttering and flashing through the long hours of dancing.

Our freshly painted Kachina Ye-Be-Sha is really a fascinating collection piece. About 4½ inches tall. Wooden Ye-Ba-Sha, No. 702, \$2.25.

There were Navajo dolls at all prices. You would appreciate more these slender, stoic featured folk, should you drive the high mesas where stark, strange rock formations dot the arid land. The thin, hot air brings out a sky hue of unbelievable blue. There's Mesa Verde 2000 feet above surrounding land, a great plateau slashed through with canyons where these people dwelt in primitive pit houses, back at the time when Christ was born. One traces their epochs through the cliff dwelling years down to the reservation where round topped hogans are their homes today. We passed Shiprock, a pinnacle of glacial rock, hundreds of feet high, alone and so impressive, especially at sunset when the shimmering heat waves make it seem to move as would a ship at sea, fathering the legend that this lone rock was a

mighty sailing vessel one time the one that brought their forebears from a northern land of ice.

The Navajos are such an individual tribe that you should have a different doll to represent them. "Busy Dolls" as Ruth Russell used to call her collection, are always choice, as such a doll teaches how real folk look and live. Such a one is industrious Mary-Mesa, the Weaver. She sits upon a fur or sheepskin mat and on the tall, wood loom, creates a rug from home dyed, spun, and carded woolen yarn sheared from their best crop—sheep. Of course, her black wool hair is puffed and bound, squash blossom style, and there's a belt of silver and a velvet blouse—Navajo "must haves." Looms average 9½ inches high, the weaver about 5 inches. No. 738CX, \$5.95.

ZUNI

Of the Pueblo (Spanish for village) Indians, the Zuni were the first to be mentioned in white man's history. In 1539 a Spanish Father recorded an unfortunate incident; Coronado and his soldiers followed next, but through a long succession of outsiders, the Pueblo people have maintained solidarity. Their community housing, their agrarian pursuits and gentle arts have remained as nearly like they were as are the patterns in their weaving, baskets, and pottery like ancient examples found in the ruins of their prehistoric High Mesa abodes.

But beaded rabbit toes make decorative lucky charms as well as being queer little Indian dolls. From a handful of bright beads, Indians of Zuni, New Mexico, have



made them. The only ones we have right now are perky braves in big beaded headdress, very much like the Indian who is riding that all bead pinto pony on page one. The difference is, that one has moccasined feet, this Good Luck fellow has two real rabbit toes for his pedal extremities. 'Nice little "get well" gifts, a collection doll, or to keep for a lucky charm. 3 inch size. No. 719, \$1.25.

"DOLLS TO BURN"

That was the heading on an A.P. story out of East Paterson, New Jersey. It said: "Chemist William Schepp says he has perfected a plastic doll that will tan when exposed to the sun's rays and revert to its original color when left indoors several hours" We don't have 'em—but they do sound delightfully inconsistent, ce n' est pas?

CHARMING

Several times we have seen Doll versions of old London Town's Costermongers; a trade folk who traditionally must have hailed from the district in sound of Bow (Church) Bells. You doubtless know their fanciful holiday garb, clothes elaborately decked in solid patternings, all motifs and borders, designed entirely of pearl buttons. Truly we thought these ladies an' gents adorned as undisputably unique, but up pops a challenger! The contestant is "Lady of Charms," a doll belonging to Allie Vigneault, (a member of San Diego, Calif. Club.) This papier-mache Lady of Charms made her T.V. debut on a 'People in the News' program last year. And just what, you may ask, are such charms? Simple, they are literally just that, little metal, plastic, even some silver, sewed on charms that totaled 200 then. Doubtless her trinkets have increased through the months. Friends do have a way of being generous when they know you've a hobby!

ANIMAL RESCUE!

"Another current use of dolls: At next luncheon of Springfield Pen Women, the talk is to be on photography. Table decorations are to be in keeping. We plan three groups of dolls having their pictures taken. My dolls are to be the people. All we lack is a bear skin rug for the bisque baby and a See-the-Birdie. Both will be acquired even if I have to buy a white rabbit for it's fur and denude a hen of feathers for the birdie."

—Louise Nicholson

LATE ARRIVALS

Since such a group of dolls in debut are on the front page, as they were last time, this section will be a bit short.

But, too late to get into the pre-Christmas number, were delightful Korean dancing girls, an Ayah from India, Hindu pair from British Guiana, and two splendid new portrait numbers, Martin Luther and John Wesley.



While Korea is no longer the hot spot in our troubled world, it will be a long time before most of us forget the heroism of Americans and Koreans alike in that bitter struggle for freedom. Here are two gay dancing girls who

might well serve as the Oriental pin-up favorites, like our troops' beloved Jane Russell and Marilyn Monroe. These stately 11 inch damsels are akin to Japanese geisha girls, being trained from little girlhood to perform their ancient, ritual dances. Drums, in Korean music, correspond to the castanets of Spain. Our Drum Dancer, arrayed in gauze-like red silk with multi-color top, wears her hourglass shaped drum suspended from about her neck. Her companion, the Monk Dancer, is garbed in traditional flowing white robe with a cowl. Both have hand painted and modeled cloth faces, with the stark white complexion achieved by cosmetics, which is prescribed for such entertainers. They are amazingly low priced, much less than those obtainable before. Black wooden bases enable them to stand alone. Drum Dancer, No. 552D, \$6-50, Monk Dancer, No. 552M, \$6-50.

Shipments from India usually take so lo-o-n-g coming through that we've forgotten what to expect. So it was a thrill, yes, even a surprise, when a case of "Ayahs" arrived, precious, brown (cloth) skinned little Moslem nursemaids in white, each one minding a pair of mischievous looking young masters (or 'bratsters') one clinched onto her shoulder, the other astride her hip! Eight inch Ayah and charges would make a conversation piece in any collection, one easily afforded, too. No. 670, Nurse and Children, \$2.95.

Our East Indian pair from British Guiana were one time countrymen of the Moslem Ayah. These

Hindus migrated from Ceylon to tropical South America, almost a century ago, following the abolition of slavery. Cheap labor was imperative and these willing, hard-working agrarians came in to stay, adding their knowledge of the tea industry to the progress of that tiny colony. These almost grotesque dolls were molded of a strange rubber substance—perhaps balata sap is used. They are dressed in vivid cottons, and as is the Hindu custom, the women wear large brass ear and nose ornaments. Truly they are unique representatives of Guiana, a little known corner of the world.



No. 279—Hindu Man, \$3.95

No. 279A—Hindu Woman, \$3.95

After covering Buddhists from Korea, Moslems from India and Hindus from British Guiana, we come to more familiar ground with two striking new portrait dolls by

Cecile, famous Protestant pioneers—Martin Luther and John Wesley.

Leader of the German Reformation and founder of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Martin Luther was a man of dynamic action. He was a controversial figure in his day, reviled on one hand and revered on the other. This outstanding, 9½ inch portrait doll depicts him in the prime of life, dressed as he is most often pictured, in a hooded fur cap and sober black robes. Martin Luther, No. 68L, \$12.50.



John Wesley, zealous founder of Methodism, lived in England during the early 18th century. He was one of the earliest missionaries in America coming to Georgia in 1735 to convert the Indians. Cecile, talented doll artist, has done exceptionally well in capturing a sweet, serious likeness of

this great organizer. The doll Wesley is correctly costumed in flowing black outer robe, high gaiters and clerical stock. There is an aura of soft, white hair, and an almost fanatical gleam in his large, earnest eyes. John Wesley, No. 68W, \$12.50.

A Swap Suggestion

Young Gentleman—"Could I get a French doll for my grandmother?"

Old Dealer — "Hm-m-m— Oh, well, since you D.T. readers are so sharp—just write in your own retort!!

PIG-IN-A-POKE

Darcy



Is there anyone who does not find going-going-gone, chanted by the auctioneer, fascinating? Auctions are always exciting, but they are the mostest fun, when a pig-in-a-poke is knocked down to us

for pennies. Late in 1952, Mrs. William M. Ahlstrom bid on and got a basket full of junk at the Kendall auction in Painesville, Ohio. She found a silver dollar among her treasures, which more

than covered her cost, but she also found a curious daguerreotype, which she brought over for me to see because of my interest in wooden dolls.

Even when we had a glossy enlargement made, it was not clear enough to reproduce well. I have made a drawing for DOLL TALK, so you, too, can look at this find and speculate about the answers to questions that have been tantalizing us. Who are these ladies? Why did they have their pictures taken with laps full of dolls? In the original, the tightly buttoned and gloved ladies look grimmer, almost dour, not happy at all. Unconsciously perhaps, I gave them much pleasanter expressions, because dolls should make you feel gay.

Unfortunately, details have either been lost in the glare of the photographer's lighting or they have faded in the interim. However, the three Dutch dolls are easy to identify and one of them is sitting side-saddle on a toy wooden horse. The fourth wooden could be a "Queen Anne." This is the only one whose eyes show up clearly, under examination by microscope. The two dolls with wigs more than likely are English waxes. The white clothing in which they are swathed, as you see, merely has silhouette and no shadows.

Could it be that these two ladies stopped at the photographers to have their pictures taken on their way home from an earlier auction?

Editor's Note: *see page 10*

We are indebted to our doll friend, Mrs. Charles A. Williams (Darcy) for this delightful bit of old time wonderment. Not yet a

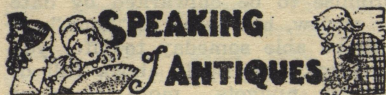
promise to be bulwarked by date or review, but surely a "hope," we will be able someday to offer you a Darcy Doll Book, chock full of wooden nuggets, more precious than gold!

SANTA FROM SOUTH

Again, our doll friend, Frances Krieger, shared her Christmas thoughts, from 'way down south in Argentina, which we, in turn, will share with you.

"When one lives in a large house with a garden, there are so many things to do, but when the holidays are near, I joyfully dedicate a week or so to writing those whose correspondence has given me so much pleasure throughout the year. Your Doll Talks are always a treat, and I am proud to inform you that I have a complete file of each copy since the very first one issued. They have been a great help in identifying dolls and I read them over and over again. I have not been adding much to my doll collection, as very little turns up here that pleases me, and it is next to impossible to have anything shipped through the mails." Mrs. K. did risk our sending some books and paper dolls.

"For the Christmas and New Year's festivities here, one of the principal avenues is transformed into a children's paradise. Huge effigies of comic figures and heroes of children's magazines are erected, four to the block, with a merry-go-round at the base. Shows and other jolly entertainment for children continue from December 13th to January 8th, which is the 'Dia de los Reyes'."



Selling ones family antiques is not always tragedy. Some folk cherish what others disregard, and both may be right as rain. One friend of ours whose high gabled home, a veritable museum, is filled with heirlooms from her ancestors' choosing, will surely love, honor and dust them all during her life. But someday the question of their disposal will come to her only heir, a niece, who lives in plate glass and chromium modernity in a functional house overlooking the sea! She will want not so much as a single Venetian goblet or convent made napkin of Aunt M's. "Old stuff." I will admit there is one Jenny Lind doll in it's coach that I covet. It would not belittle this china headed antique to be sold, via Kimport, someday, to one of you who would appreciate her charms and value.

But someone loved and played with big (30 inch) "Little Girl Laurie" who came to us from England. She had been a Christmas gift in 1882 and one can surely visualize this life-like composition (waxed) with huge blue eyes, blown glass, pale, wispy hair, fitting a real child's chair, beneath some old-time Christmas tree. Her frock is rich red serge, tucked, shirred and crewel stitched embroidered in a thousand perfect stitches! Her white wool cape is tufted and the fine yarn crocheted hood contrived in fancy patterns

with upstanding band of wooly puffs around her face. Laurie's in splendid shape, not a nick on her Roman sandal bootied legs, not a crack in her waxy complexion. No. A401, \$85.00.

Beautiful, and hence beloved, too, must have been French bisque "Florine", such an aristocrat with cupid's bow closed lips; pale blue, still sleepy eyes; small waisted lady type kid body with stitched leather toes and dimpled bisque hands. One broken thumb, but all original is this one, with her cute old blonde, banged wig done up in lady style. Her lovely underthings, all old, and lined silk dress, pale blue, and splitting badly, have been beautifully handmade, long, long ago. Florine would date in the 1870's and the clothing may all be original. The brows and lashes are most delicately lined; her shoulders plump; she's 14 inches tall. No. A453, \$75.00.

Another closed mouth bisque is little Miss 1878, also in all original condition and costume. She's only 7 inches tall, but has big blue glass eyes, blonde lady wig to enhance her pink complexion. Long sweeping, deep flounced skirt and basque are maroon red satine, trimmed with the same val lace that's on her petticoat. No. A400, \$24.00.

Now open mouth bisques are far less expensive—more common, but for some forty years, thousands of little girls had that kind. Of course, they were cherished and so here are two, most reasonably priced, from a collection, that we know were loved—because they're so carefully dressed.

"Girl in Green" is good fifty years old, a 16 inch blonde with big gray eyes and hair swept fetchingly into a long curl cluster at one side. New body with kid shoes made on, but old bisque arms in kid with plumply dimpled hands, one chipped, otherwise she's in perfect condition. Floor length dress of antique green cotton is of a heavy, fancy weave, trimmed with dull olive velveteen. No. DA264, \$15.00.

Twelve inch Miss Amy Brown is pertly personable with extra large brown eyes, and light brown hair done lady style, beneath the trimmest antique toque! 'Could be that her wine velvet suit was made to match this treasure hat. Her shoes are heeled doll slippers, topped with white kid gaiters, whose side buttons are glass beads of matching red. Now, that's a hidden idea, well worth wading through to get! Oh, Amy has original kid body, small bisque hands, nice underwear and black lace hose that look the period—50 to 60 years ago. No. DA504, \$12.00.

And naturally, the baby dolls, those life-like darling bisques of the 1920's were adored! Our dearest one right now is a practically life size A. M. Kiddiejoy with sleeping brown eyes, two lower teeth, infant hands of celluloid. In darling, hand-made nainsook. About 18 inches long, but that's mostly it's cuddly body—head 14 inches in circumference, and perfect. No. A391, \$23.00.

Another Kiddiejoy, so marked, is a head only and the only such that we have ever had. It is a cunning child type, not an infant,

open mouth, four teeth—sleeping blue eyes, short bobbed original brown wig. The thing that is unusual is the shoulders, squared and closed across the sides as shown in Mrs. Johl's story of this one; Page 106 in her "Fascinating Story of Dolls." 5½ inches high; No. A460, \$15.00.

Of course, the first love of bisque head infants is Grace S. Putnam's Bye-Lo. At the risk of grievous complaints from some on want list, here is one, a dandy, gray-eyed, new-born with it's markings on both head and body. Eleven inch size, ten around it's head, celluloid hands, all dressed and rightly priced. No. A420, \$28-50-

The other infants, closed mouth and sleeping eyed Dream Babies of the twenties are also life-like modelings.

Head only, 5 inches high, 13 around, blue eyes—D650, \$12.50.

Same, smaller, 3 inches high and 9 around—D651, \$6:50.

How we digress! But since we have taken to this tangent of not dolls but heads—here are half dozen more; two b-i-g ones first.

Most ordinary "low brow" but a blonde, 6½ inches high—full 5 across her shoulders, which have holes for sewing through, and no German mark—so, let's say 1880's. She'd make a 27 inch doll. No. A440, \$21.00.

Larger still, better painted with pink lines above eyes and in nostrils, and a bit different in hair style, is the jet haired one, 7 inches high, 5¼ across shoulders. There is a dimple in her chin, white line at the center part, medium

low brow with big soft waves that swirl and tuck into a little back circle at the nape of her neck; eyes quite a pale blue, marked '10' but not Germany. No. A357, \$45.00.

Good twenty years older is the next china head, a heavy one that has a pottery-like glaze of grayish pink; high rounded brow; head wide—we sometimes call this "urn shaped." Eyes are bright blue, and there are crisp comb markings 'round the vertical curls. This head is Mid-Victorian; came to Kimport from the lovely village of Buford, near Oxford. This head is 4" size. No. A454, \$28.00.

The other three are German bisque name heads—all 3½ inch size, all minus wigs, with open lips, dimple in chin. Brown eyed "Alma" (in fancy script) is No. A348 at \$5.50. Dark, gray eyed "Ruth" has a hair-line crack up the back. No. A423, \$5.00. Bright blue eyed "Mabel," No. A465, \$5.00.

Neither hospital work nor selling parts has ever been part of the Kimport business, but we do stock some things that come in handy betimes in our own Bessie's workroom. There are three human hair, pigtail style wigs up there, size 6½, which fit these name heads; fairly well made, at least not new synthetics—\$5.00 each.

Back to some more that were undoubtedly cherished—maybe the whole big room full holds no other kind! But big boy (22 inch) has such a white suit with pockets, pearl buttons and hand stitched button holes and even tiny snaps up the front of his trousers! The doll? He has a 5½ inch high

metal head, some scuffed, good leather jointed body with old heaviest celluloid limbs; one arm slit, but all there. No. DA263, \$17.50.

There's a small, 13 inch, metal head boy, but of no such class! Clean cloth body, head scuffed some as these old Minervas always did when played with, 3¼ inch head size. No. A212, \$4.50.

"Orphan Annie" came into her own, a rose sprigged dimity with simply dozens of hand-run tucks—after much tribulation. Her china head even went through a trash fire—oh, yes, there be house cleaners who have done such things with old leaky sawdust bodies, even with heads attached! Annie's head is really different, too, a high-brow but flat and sloping upward from high forehead scallops. She has the most wistful, introvert expression. Nine and a half inch size, reproduction limbs. No. DA505, \$8.95.

Twelve inch Lucy has a bit of pioneer history. Her 3 inch china head belonged to Mrs. Joseph F. Smith, Salt Lake City. It's a nice head, low brow, but not most common one. She'd never made it up into a doll, but Dr. Donnelly, her last owner got lovely limbs from H.D.D.H., made and dressed her becomingly in a bustle back gown with garnet velvet overblouse with touches of lilac. No. DA441, \$15.00.

Small dolls can be as representative as larger ones. They are fun and handy for folks who can't manage room for the impressive ones, big dolls that might show up better at a lecture.

Pair of German bisque twins, 2¾ inches tall; girl with bobbed hair; and boy with side parted, painted hair; both are as originally "store dressed," alike! Pink, movable arms, about 1910. The two chubby tots, No. A496, \$4.00.

Much earlier and finer bisque pair, jointed at hips, shoulders and swivel neck; dainty hands and flat soled blue shoes; pretty faces; roll curl wigs; 2½ inches tall. Peasant clothing is original. No. AD403, Pair, \$8-50.

Three and three-fourths inch white bisque; head about thumb-tack size, original little white limbs, stuffed body. Beautiful ball gown of finest old black lace, over green. No. DA578, \$3.95.

All bisque child, with a different hair style; 3½ inch size, jointed at hips and shoulders. High, rounded forehead with center parted hair which is then modeled into a soft bob. Plaid ribbon frock. No. DA523, \$3.50.

Charming and certainly different are four old terra-cotta creche dolls that Mr. Donald Cordry sent up from Cuernavaca. In sweet original clothes; 4¼ inches high; they date about 1875. All have some broken fingers and one lady is missing a leg. Their hair styles are fascinating. The one man wears a silk coat of gamboge, dull rose vest, deep blue trousers with gold at the knees. No. A497, \$12.50.

Girl with the same yellow silk for her waist has rose bands on her skirt and an apron of moss green with dull mauve and gold. No. A498, \$12.50.

Lady with a dark red ribbon

modeled through her hair is in mellow hued silks and a strangely woven sheer cotton. These really are quite precious little dolls! No. A499, \$13-50.

And last, the "one foot" lady, dressed in the lace weave cotton with old rose tint for bands and bodice. The full flounced skirt is floor length, so her missing limb is not too noticeable. No. A500, \$10.00.

Little old wooden limbed papier-mache—that's a delightful type. There's a girl 6¼ inches tall, circa 1860, in splendid original condition with flat carved feet and mitten type wood hands; deep shouldered head is 'highbrow' with soft, modeled curls; rigid body, linen or cambric (not leather) but the wooden limbs are topped with colored paper bands—a method that had been followed in the making of these prim, upstanding dolls for many years. Interesting old clothes. No. DA431, \$32-50.

And a 6¼ inch German bisque doll house lady, all original and strictly adult with her brown modeled hair waving softly from low pompadour to chignon. Arms are a matching pink, stockings white and slippers black. Dressed; circa 1915. No. A232, \$16-50.

Last is a 7 inch china lady, a lady with high glaze porcelain complexion, blue eyes, rose cheeks and jet black hair. This cascades down in tiny scallops, center part. Original arms and legs; date, about 1875. All hand-made clothes, removable, the two piece gown elaborate with tiny tucks, panniers and pleats. She's a fine doll. No. DA556, \$20.00.

"NOTES FROM MY SCRAP-BOOK"

That is the general heading under which Mrs. R. J. Vrooman assembles notes that help in better understanding her own distinguished collection, as well as dolls which others own and love to share. That there is a section for authentic fashions is proved by the following paragraphs which she enclosed to share with you, the readers of "your fascinating DOLL TALK!" Thanks, Louise, for such discrimination.

Godey's Lady's Book—April, 1834

No mention is made of underthings but the skirt of the riding dress pictured is lifted slightly to show a tiny embroidered drawer edge and the ankle.

January, 1856

Little girls pictured wear straight legged pantalettes trimmed in bands of lace or embroidery midway between the skirt edge and the ankle.

November 1859

Two pairs of ladies' drawers are shown, separate legs joined at the waistband, one "trimmed with a straight band of insertion and a frill"—the other, "gathered in a band of cambric embroidery, which is edged by a frill." These are not long enough to show below the dress, since in this period only children wore pantalettes showing below the dress.

Peterson's Magazine, 1863

"Petticoats now form an important item of dress—so we have this winter, petticoats of every imaginable shade and design—white and colored—French merino braided—are amongst the novelties for

carriage costume. Black quilted petticoats are most fashionable. Eiderdown, though more expensive than the cotton wadding, being lighter, is used in preference to cotton but wool is also exceedingly light and warm."

March, 1863

Striped petticoats are worn over a cage which has a starched white flounce around the bottom of it. Colored stockings now invariably accompany the colored petticoat and correspond with it in color. Violet is a favorite color.

BOOK REVIEW GUEST

Television may have raised our sights; we may have learned how doubly pleasant it can be to look while we listen. Anyway, here is a thought—let some doll, or group of correlated dolls be a focal point up on the speakers table. It will amaze you how this will relieve your view of mike and carafe!

Miss Helen Winget of the Kansas City Library staff, was in the other Saturday. Helen buys undressed beauties, then revels in a binge of costuming each one correct to every detail of it's period. She'd brought in china Mary Todd to share, knowing that we'd approve the hoops, draped skirt, tight basque, the mitts and bit o' bonnet.

"Mary," in Civil War array, had been the honor guest, the only china headed listener at a review of that delightful book, "Mary Lincoln, Biography of a Marriage," given by Mary Grace Fleury—at which, 'tis safe to say, the two Marys shared honors.

DOLL TALK

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.



Q. I bought an enameled stockinette doll, with hand sewn joints to the muslin body—about 20 inch size (description of clothing). Dealer said it was a "Chase Stockinette." How can I tell?

A. Chase trademark was usually stamped on the left leg above the knee. I have had them with the T.M. under the left arm. It is a circle (face) with a band like a Dutch bonnet extending out. "Chase" above the banner, "Stockinette Doll" on it, eyes, nose and mouth, and "Trade Mark" circling below like a collar. First ones made in the early 1890's; same date as Columbia Rag dolls, which had more stitching of joints, I think.

Q. You mentioned that the paper dolls were brittle with age. We know of someone who does a plastic laminating job on old books. In fact, this process is being used in the Library of Congress on some of their rare items. Do you feel that such treatment would interfere with their future value?

A. No, I think it would preserve what otherwise would fall apart. That's a personal opinion and to repeat me, "I could be wrong."

Q. What is a good way to label dolls? I want something small and easy to make or inexpensive to buy.

A. Using stiff cardboard, cut small oblongs — perhaps 5/8 inch high by 2 inches long; print or write in India ink; use rather short, heavy, straight pins, inserted to a point near top, centered to form a firm little easel back. These make good shelf markers. Another suggestion is to type on muslin, cut to size, and sew onto the doll.

Q. What is a Gladdie Doll?

A. Smiling, bisque tot, with hair modeled in a rather scant bobbed style.

Helen Jensen, American sculptress, originated it as a likeness of her own little son. Doll made in Germany.

Q. If I join your Doll of the Month Club, and order dolls averaging \$10.00 a month, could I order ones of my choice?

A. Certainly. We can send dolls of your choice in almost any price range, even a few antiques, although they usually run more.

D.O.M. was not originated to move out any certain lines; we can afford to give you that bonus 13th because your purchases are regular and assured.

One other scheme that Georgie devised—say on a ten dollar average, there's a much wanted \$20.00 doll—right—it's purchase can cover two monthly payments.

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"It's good to deal with people who use their good ol' beans, like sending that extra large stand. Thanks!" —Mrs. Lyle Schmid, Wisc.

"Our association—really friendship—has been more than satisfactory. Do you realize you and I have been assembling my collection for over twelve years? It now numbers 132 dolls, representing 28 states; Alaska and Hawaii; 5 Indian tribes, 8 Latin American countries; 20 European nations; Africa and Australia."

—Elizabeth Werres, D. C.

"It seems we always have a lot to be thanking you for! This time it is the Duke, who arrived in time to please two little girls with very bad cases of measles. Having the Queen and Duke to admire and wonder about helped them forget how miserable they felt."

—Mrs. Elsie Smith, N. J.

"We are squeezing in a small order for two little dolls to have under our Christmas tree for Mary Fran. Our budget is limited, because, you see, real live dolls keep being welcomed at our house. This Christmas will be made especially happy by the birth of our eighth!"

—Mrs. F. J. Kennedy, Illinois

"Please send Doll Talk to my sister. Her dollies have a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains from their cabinets. They also give tea parties every Saturday for the neighbor children. They are much admired for their hospitality."

—Lucy Cunningham, Okla.

"Last summer I was in London and tried to get the Queen Elizabeth at Liberty's, but had no luck. I surely will appreciate it if you can still supply her."

—Velma Dickson, Illinois

"My dolls go to school, Sunday School, women's clubs and the Y. They love to get about!"

—Naomi Brewer, Maryland

"You may be interested to know that I have a set of Mother Goose paper dolls by Raphael Tuck and Sons, each about a foot high and beautifully colored. They date back before 1900; were my own when a little girl. They are made of heavy cardboard with attached stands, and always stood around under our Christmas tree. I did not play with them during the year, which is probably why they are still in such good condition."

—Julia Rhoads, Mich.

"In my Second Grade classroom, I've used some of your dolls for special displays, such as for U. N. Day (and Week); U. S. Indians and Eskimoes; Sports, etc. Have lent other groups to teachers of the upper grades."

—Marie Hoppes, Penna.

"'Your Dolls and Mine' is a delight. There are so many dollmakers whose names were known to me, but I never knew the kind of dolls they made. The 'odd material' dolls are a pet with me. So many of the dollmakers are artists that the poor unartistic little guys just don't have a chance, do they?" —Mae Underwood, Illinois.

"I want a little old grandmother to put in a chair by a tiny round table with a basket of knitting at her feet. All my dolls just stand around now and I think it's time to have something different for a change."

—Kathryn Rickard, New York

"My complete file of Doll Talk, since I started in 1948, is dog-eared from use. I have gained so much from it!"

—Mrs. Althea Bishop, Calif.

"I use my dolls of unusual materials in the schoolroom to stimulate interest in doll making."

—Janette Ramsey, N. Mex.

"Vie arrived to 'bless' my collection, and she is lovely—more like a real little person than a doll. I'm so pleased with her."

—Mrs. W. R. Jones, Calif.

"I'm always interested in miniature dolls to hang on my Christmas tree."

—G. Barnoske, Mich.

"We became acquainted with Kimport at the Joseph Horne Company while we were living in Pittsburgh. There I bought the first collection dolls for Sandra's first Christmas five years ago."

"Her daddy is going to make two shadow boxes with interesting pattern shelf arrangements in deep picture frames. Glass fronts will keep the dolls clean and protect them from being over-handled by tiny eager fingers of neighborhood small fry. Children can learn that something must be enjoyed by sight rather than touch."

—Mrs. Wilson Brubaker, Calif.

"One Christmas, about thirty years ago, I received one of these Acrobat dolls and how I loved flipping it over and over! I've never seen another, and now, I am delighted to see you have them! Please send three."

—Mrs. Karl Gardner, Illinois

"While in France and Spain this summer, could not find nice male dolls representative of the countries, so please send Maurice of France and Fernando, the Spanish Bullfighter."

—Mrs. C. H. Reese, Penna.

"For the talk I made for the Pilgrim Guild, of which I am currently chaplain, I took 105 dolls. There was ample room for display, and informative bits from my Kimport pages, combined with other data, helped make a really nice afternoon."

—Teresa Saunders, Oregon

"I have been on the Hopi mesas and seen their dances and homes. Have a couple of Kachinas, but this one from Kimport is quite different, so dramatic and handsome. The Kachinas really stimulate one's interest in Indian dolls, so maybe I will continue them for another year on my Doll of the Month. It will be either that or else I'll start a United Nations group."

—Susan MacBriar, Minn.

"Marriage and children put the dolls away in boxes. Now a few people have grown up a little and I can unpack in safety. Which all boils down to the fact that I would love to have 'Doll Talk' again."

—Mrs. Hugh Peters, Maryland

IT'S GREAT TO BE ME

Collecting must be kept a pleasure, say we, else why collect! What if one's hobby is not enthusiastically appreciated by all and sundry—I, You, We—certainly should cherish those God-given and Inalienable Rights (See U. S. Constitution). We've been bored but benign while listening to technical tales from our friends concerning their hobbies. Who wants fancy buttons since zippers—Why old glass when one can buy new—What would mamma do with faded circus posters of a generation ago—Why first editions when seconds say the same things and cost less—Who cares what's par??? Snooty questions, all of these, and there could be hundreds more of similar nature, guaranteed to ruffle the feathers of millions, hobbyists all, from just an old rooster to an angel with wings! Why, some uncultured person might even suggest, "Why clutter up your life with Dolls?"

These thoughts on the joys of self-expression, or the antitheistic misery of being pressed into a groove bubble up like an ever-living fountain, here at Kimport. We have had so many hundreds of dear, revealing letters on the doll hobby: Dolls have been sheer joy, Dolls have been a bridge from introversion, Dolls have been real solace in bereavement.

Today the starter was from Mrs. L. H. Brink, who'd said "No thanks" on two small dolls we'd offered, adding (back to those Constitutional Rights) "I'm leaning more and more to the 21 inch size, why, I wot not!" Well, this new Betty B. offering says: "Lemme see Jenny. I was amused that you were amused at my wotting not wot turned my fancy to larger dolls. Our family never tires of the punch line from an anecdote about Whistler. Nettled by brick-bats thrown by a critic, he retorted in acid tones, "Well, even a donkey knows what he likes." You know what the nicest thing about Kimport's is? If you have any whimsy you can let it show!"

Now, reading this back, I am tempted to mention one other tangent that logically leads from my opening sentence. "Collecting must be kept a pleasure, say we, else why collect? This line is to repeat for all old friends, and to tell new ones that one reason people buy from Kimport, dolls they've never seen—is that we guarantee without a bit of fuss or furor, that any doll not liked by you may be returned for either cash or credit on what's next.

We're happy here at Kimport, say it is more a way of life than just a business. So naturally we wish for all of you, our friends, real pleasure in our dolls and dealings.

A Rich and Prosperous New Year To Us All!

KIMPORT DOLLS, Independence, Mo.